

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

April 10, 2002

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair
Bob Lowry
Janon Rogers
Lita Verts
Stewart Wershow, Councilor

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Edna Campau, City of Albany
Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - March 13, 2002			Accepted as written
Linn-Benton Loop Overview	X		
May 2002 Meeting			May meeting cancelled.
Ridership Report	X		
OSU/ASOSU Group Pass Programs	X		
Transit District Formation	X		
Intermodal Mall - Status	X		
Summer Youth Pass	X		
Library Youth Reading Program	X		
Earth Day - April 22	X		
"Get There Another Way" Week	X		
Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership Survey	X		
Trolley Use - Salem Area Mass Transit District	X		
Grant - Op/Maintenance Facility	X		
New Bus Introduced	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 13, 2002

The minutes were accepted as presented.

II. LINN-BENTON LOOP OVERVIEW

Edna Campau, the Albany Transit Coordinator, provided information to the Commission on the history and operations of the Linn-Benton Loop. She noted that the Loop began service in July of 1980, and she provided a copy of one of the first schedules. Loop operations are currently funded

by the cities of Albany and Corvallis, Linn and Benton Counties, Linn-Benton Community College and an ODOT grant. Linn County contributes funds from their State Special Transportation Fund (STF) allocation, and a portion of the amount paid by Benton County comes from their STF allocation. The Loop has group pass programs with Hewlett-Packard and Linn-Benton Community College. Ms. Campau announced that Oregon State University has agreed to assist LBCC in the payment of their group pass program for 2002-03 because of the dual-enrollment program between the two institutions and LBCC's inability to pay the full amount to retain the program. Sixty percent (60%) of the Loop's riders are students.

III. MAY 2002 CACOT MEETING

The May CACOT meeting, originally scheduled for May 8, is cancelled because of the unavailability of several CACOT members.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Reports (fixed, paratransit, Philomath)

The March ridership reports were presented. CTS provided 44,264 rides during March. This represents the highest March ridership in the history of the system. The Philomath report showed 1,033 rides provided in March. The Dial-A-Bus ridership was also presented. It was requested that future ridership reports include the date that the report was generated.

B. OSU/ASOSU Group Pass Program

Ms. Barrett reported that she had met with the ASOSU Budget Committee to present the 2002-03 request for the group pass program. The Committee was supportive of the request. She will meet with the Student Fees Committee on Friday, April 12. A small increase in the student fee (from \$1.70 per student/per term to \$1.75) is being requested because of increased operating costs and increased student ridership. A letter has been sent to OSU's Vice President for Finance and Administration, Mark McCambridge, to transmit the 2002-03 contract for the faculty/staff transit group pass program. No increase is being requested for the faculty/staff program because the number of faculty/staff riders has only increased slightly from previous years.

C. Transit District Formation - Status Report

Public Works Director Rogers stated that the City Council held a work session on Monday, March 18, to discuss the proposed transit district formation. The Council was considering a transit district formation as one of the four revenue enhancements related to the City's budget for 2002-03 and beyond. After input from several transit stakeholders, it was determined that the district issue needed to involve more discussions with the stakeholders. The Council also considered the appropriate body to pursue further discussions on the topic and determined that the City should work with the County and assist with a transit summit. Mr. Rogers reported that Benton County Commissioner Modrell had announced a meeting to be held on April 30 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Albany City Council Chambers to discuss transit and other transportation issues.

Mr. Rogers addressed the budget issue, indicating that the Proposed 2002-03 Corvallis Budget would be transmitted to the City's Budget Commission on April 26. He noted that the failure of the vehicle registration fee and the delay of a transit district formation will result in budget cuts. The Budget Commission will be meeting May 2 to hear the City Manager's budget message and discuss the cuts utilizing the list of prioritized services developed last year. The Budget Commission will hold a public hearing at their May 9 meeting on the proposed budget. It appears from preliminary information that cuts will be made in the lower level tiers of the prioritized list. The two transit cuts do not appear to be at risk at this time; although, nothing is certain.

D. Intermodal Mall - Status Report

Staff reported that the project has been advertised for bid. Proposals are due on April 23 and will be awarded in May. Construction is scheduled to begin the end of May. The bus terminal portion is to be completed by the middle of September and the concession building is to be completed in November. Public Works Director Rogers noted that the 34 parking spaces affected by the project will be accommodated elsewhere in the area.

E. Summer Youth Pass Program

Corvallis Transit is again offering a summer youth pass for children 17 years of age and under for unlimited rides all summer. The cost is \$11.95 and is being promoted through the Parks and Recreation bulletin and their annual summer

registration. Ads will also appear in local media, on the buses, and through the Employee Transportation Coordinator networking group.

F. Library Youth Reading Program

Corvallis Transit is once again partnering with the Library's youth summer reading program to provide transit passes to program participants. The Library has developed passes for CTS and the Philomath Connection. The used passes are tracked and the Friends of the Library reimburse the City for the fares. This proved to be a great addition to the summer reading program last summer.

G. Earth Day

Corvallis Transit System will be celebrating Earth Day by providing free rides on April 22. The event highlights transit's contribution to reducing the number of vehicles on the road and related environmental consequences. The Mayor will proclaim Earth Day at the April 15 City Council meeting and announce the free rides. The event will also be promoted through the local media.

H. "Get There Another Way Week"

The annual spring alternative modes event is scheduled for May 13-17. The event's goal is to encourage the use of alternative transportation modes to the single occupancy vehicle (SOV). The City's employee transportation coordinators (ETCs) group is working to promote the event and provide incentives for their employees. The event will also offer great prizes in a drawing for all employees of active ETC-represented employers. As part of the week's events, Wednesday will be free transit day. Work is already underway to plan the for fall transit event. This year's theme is "A Taste of Transit".

I. Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership Survey

The annual on-board survey to determine the percentages of senior, youth, and persons with disabilities riding the bus will be held April 15 through April 27. The drivers determine the category of rider based upon the observation of the person and the fare payment, which provides for discounts for seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities. A senior or youth with a disability is counted only once as a person with a disability.

J. Trolley Use by Salem Area Mass Transit District (SAMTD)

The Salem transit district has requested the use of the Corvallis trolley one day a month (the first Wednesday of the month) beginning in May and running through October. SAMTD is coordinating with the City of Salem and downtown Salem merchants to revitalize the downtown. The trolley will be used as part of a demonstration project. An intergovernmental agreement will be considered by the City Council at their April 15 meeting. Corvallis will recover the actual costs for SAMTD's use of the trolley. The trolley will be driven by SAMTD drivers who have been trained to operate the trolley. A back-up bus will be provided by SAMTD if one is needed in Corvallis. This is unlikely considering the City's two new buses will begin service the week of April 8.

K. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant Application Submitted

The City of Corvallis received a Congressional earmark to conduct preliminary design activities for a transit operations and maintenance facility. The application has been submitted to the FTA for consideration. The application would provide 80-percent of the funds necessary to identify potential partners in the facility, potential site locations, and preliminary design of the facility. The potential sites would be evaluated and a preferred location identified. It is likely that a Congressional earmark would then be sought for construction costs.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m., and the Committee walked to the downtown transit terminal on 5th Street to inspect one of the new low-floor vehicles.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, June 12, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, July 10, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, August 14, 7:30 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D